

***IN THE CLAIMS:***

1. (currently amended) An in-line formed, non-laminated, air laid web, the web having major surfaces in the X-Y plane and a depth in the Z direction, the web suitable for use as a composite fluid distribution and fluid retention layer in a disposable ~~absorbent article~~ personal care product, comprising:

a) a plurality of intermingled lower basis weight areas and higher basis weight areas coexisting and distributed in at least a central region of web, the alternations crossing the X axis or Y axis, or both, of the web;

b) the higher basis weight areas being a greater thickness in the Z-direction than the lower basis weight areas; ~~and~~

c) the web having no discrete or disturbed material boundaries between the lower basis weight areas and the higher basis weight areas, whereby whole fibers exist at the boundaries between the lower basis weight areas and the higher basis weight areas; and

d) the web further containing superabsorbent materials.

2. (original) The in-line formed, non-laminated web according to Claim 1, wherein the higher basis weight areas are distributed in an irregular distribution and have a repeating pattern.

3. (original) The in-line formed, non-laminated web according to Claim 1, wherein the higher basis weight areas are distributed in an regular distribution and having a repeating pattern.

4. (original) The in-line formed, non-laminated web according to Claim 1, wherein the higher basis weight areas have a higher concentration of absorbent materials than the lower basis weight areas.

5. (original) The in-line formed, non-laminated web according to Claim 1, wherein the web is a composite web of overlaid repeating patterns.

6. (original) The in-line formed, non-laminated web according to Claim 5, wherein the web has different patterns overlaid.

7. (original) The in-line formed, non-laminated web according to Claim 1, wherein the web has multiple amplitude ridges.

8. (currently amended) The in-line formed, non-laminated web according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~distribution is-~~ plurality of intermingled lower basis weight areas and higher basis weight areas coexisting and distributed in at least a central region of web are distributed in an islands in the sea distribution.

9. (currently amended) The in-line formed, non-laminated web according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~distribution is-~~ plurality of intermingled lower basis weight areas and higher basis weight areas coexisting and distributed in at least a central region of web are distributed in a checkerboard pattern.

10. (currently amended) The in-line formed, non-laminated web according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~distribution is-~~ plurality of intermingled lower basis weight areas and higher basis weight areas coexisting and distributed in at least a central region of web are distributed in a side by side pattern.

11. (currently amended) The in-line formed, non-laminated web of Claim 1, further having upper and lower areas as distinguished in the Z direction of the web, with fiber denier in the upper areas of the web larger than fiber denier in the lower areas of the web.

12. (currently amended) The in-line formed, non-laminated web of Claim 1, further having upper and lower areas as distinguished in the Z direction of the web, with greater hydrophilicity in the lower areas of the web.

13. (currently amended) The in-line formed, non-laminated web of Claim 1, further having upper and lower areas as distinguished in the Z direction of the web, with different pulps in the upper areas of the web than in the lower areas of the web.:

14. (currently amended) The in-line formed, non-laminated web of Claim 1, further having upper and lower areas as distinguished in the Z direction of the web, with different superabsorbents in the upper areas of the web than in the lower areas of the web.

15. (currently amended) An in-line formed, non-laminated web, the web having major surfaces in the X-Y plane and a depth in the Z direction, the web suitable for use as a composite fluid distribution and fluid retention layer in a disposable ~~absorbent article~~ personal care product, comprising:

a) a plurality of a lower basis weight stripes alternating with a plurality of second higher basis weight stripes in at least a central region of web, the alternations crossing at least one major axis in the plane of the web;

b) the higher basis weight stripes being a greater thickness in the Z-direction than the lower basis weight stripes; ~~and~~

c) the web having no discrete or disturbed material boundaries between the lower basis weight stripes and the higher basis weight stripes, whereby whole fibers exist at the boundaries between the lower basis weight stripes and the higher basis weight stripes; and

d) the web further containing superabsorbent materials.

16. (original) The in-line formed, non-laminated web of Claim 15, wherein the web consists of a single material composition.

17. (original) The in-line formed, non-laminated web of Claim 15, wherein the alternations cross the machine direction of the web.

18. (original) The in-line formed, non-laminated web of Claim 17, wherein the alternations cross the cross direction of the web.

19. (original) The in-line formed, non-laminated web of Claim 15, wherein the alternations cross the cross direction of the web.

20. (original) The in-line formed, non-laminated web of Claim 15, wherein the higher basis weight stripes have the same fiber denier as the lower basis weight stripes.

21. (original) The in-line formed, non-laminated web of Claim 15, wherein the higher basis weight stripes have a zone of a low concentration of absorbent material and a zone of a high concentration of absorbent material alternating in the machine direction.

22. (original) The in-line formed, non-laminated web of Claim 15, wherein the higher basis weight stripes have a zone of a low concentration of absorbent material and a zone of a high concentration of absorbent material alternating in the cross direction.